

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS STATE 041052

TODEP 87

FOLLOWING SENT SECSTATE WASHDC FROM BANGKOK 01 MAR 74

QUOTE UNCLAS BANGKOK 3495

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SEATO, TH

SUBJECT: RTG STATEMENT ON SEATO

REF: BANGKOK 3332

1. RE PARA 2. REFTTEL, THAI FOREIGN MINISTER CHARUNPHAN ISARANGURA NA AYUTHAYA (IN REPLYING TO LOCAL TELEVISION NEWS-CASTER FEB 28. PUBLICLY ANNOUNCED RTG CONTINUED SUPPORT FOR SEATO WHICH WAS CARRIED ON LOCAL CHANNEL 4. PRESS HAS ALSO REPORTED STATEMENT. EMBASSY TRANSLATION OF 1. AND AF FOLLOWS:

BEGIN QUOTE. REPORTER: I WOULD LIKE TO ASK YOU WHETHER THE CHANGING WORLD SITUATION, THE ASSOCIATION BY MANY SEATO MEMBERS WITH THE PRC OR WITH OTHER COMMUNIST COUNTRIES, IN ANY WAY AFFECTS SEATO?

FON MIN: SEATO WAS NOT FORMED TO BAR ANY MEMBER FROM DOING
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THINGS--EVEN MATERS SUCH AS DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS. IT

IS NO OBSTACLE TO ITS MEMBERS' ESTABLISHMENT OF RELATIONS
WITH FOREIGN COUNTRIES SUCH AS THE PRC. FOR EXAMPLE,

WHEN SEATO WAS FORMED ENGLAND ALREADY HAD DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS
WITH THE PRC. AS THE WORLD SITUATION HAS
CHANGED, AS YOU HAVE SAID, SEATO HAS ADAPTED ITSELF
TO THE NEW SITUATION. IT HAS CHANGED IN FOCUSING ON
THE PREVENTION OF COMMUNIST SUBVERSION--WHAT WE
CALL "COUNTER-INSURAGENCY". AND, AT THE SAME TIME,
IT HAS PROMOTED PROJECTS WHICH ENABLE SEATO REGIONAL
MEMBER COUNTRIES THAILAND AND THE PHILIPPINES TO ATTAIN
ECONOMIC AND TECHNICAL PROGRESS. WE WORK TOWARD THOSE
GOALS. IT WAS SO PROPOSED AT THE SEATO COUNCIL
MEETING IN SEPTEMBER LAST YEAR--AND THAILAND SUPPORTED
IT. THEREFORE, AT PRESENT WE EMPHASIZE SEATO ACTIVITIES
WHICH WILL INCREASE ECONOMIC PROGRESS OF THE TWO
REGIONAL MEMBERS AND, AT THE SAME TIME, HELP THEM
MAINTAIN SECURITY IN THESE TWO COUNTRIES. END QUOTE.
MASTERS UNQUOTE CASEY

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